

RAGER ET AL.
"Home Network Searching When Roaming
In Wireless Communications Networks"
Atty. Docket No. CS23709RL

Appl. No. 10/717,255
Confirm. No. 7757
Examiner W. Cumming
Art Unit 2683

Allowability of Claims Over Vestergaard

Rejection Summary

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2002/0068574 (Vestergaard). Office Action, 18 May 2004, para. 7.

Allowability of Claim 1

Regarding Claim 1, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Vestergaard fails to disclose or suggest a

... method in a wireless communications device, the method comprising:

operating in a network other than a home network of the wireless communications device;

determining whether to search for the home network of the wireless communications device when not operating in the home network by comparing network record information associated with the network in which the mobile wireless communications device is operating to reference information.

Vestergaard discloses a mobile communication device having a switch enabling the user to manually select one of two or more networks (PLMNs) in which the device will operate. Vestergaard, [paras. 0007, 0026, 0031, 0033]. The object of Vestergaard is to prevent roaming in another network when the home PLMN is available. Vestergaard, [para. 0031]. To address this problem, Vestergaard searches for the home PLMN regardless of

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the network selected by the user. Vestergaard, [para. 0007]. If the home PLMN is found while another network is selected, Vestergaard either notifies the user that the home PLMN is available or automatically changes networks. Vestergaard, [para. 0008].

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Vestergaard does not determine whether to search for the home network when not operating in the home network by comparing network record information associated with the network in which the mobile wireless communications device is operating to reference information. As noted above, Vestergaard always searches for the home PLMN regardless of the network for which the communication device is configured to operate. Thus there is no need for Vestergaard to compare network record information associated with the network in which the mobile wireless communications device is operating to reference information. Claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are thus patentably distinguished over Vestergaard.

Allowability of Claim 14

Regarding Claim 14, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Vestergaard fails to disclose or suggest a

... method in a mobile wireless communications device, the method comprising:

operating in a network other than a home network of the wireless communications device;

determining whether to search for the home network when operating in the network other than the home network based on information used to indicate that the wireless communications

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device is operating in a network other than the network in which the wireless communications device is operating.

Vestergaard discloses a mobile communication device having a switch enabling the user to manually select one of two or more networks (PLMNs) in which the device will operate. Vestergaard, [paras. 0007, 0026, 0031, 0033]. The object of Vestergaard is to prevent roaming in another network when the home PLMN is available. Vestergaard, [para. 0031]. To address this problem, Vestergaard searches for the home PLMN regardless of the network selected by the user. Vestergaard, [para. 0007]. If the home PLMN is found while another network is selected, Vestergaard either notifies the user that the home PLMN is available or automatically changes networks. Vestergaard, [para. 0008].

As noted above, Vestergaard searches for the home PLMN regardless of the network for which the communication device is configured to operate. Thus there is no need for Vestergaard to determine whether to search for the home network when operating in the network other than the home network based on information used to indicate that the wireless communications device is operating in a network other than the network in which the wireless communications device is operating. Claim 14 and the claims that depend therefrom are thus patentably distinguished over Vestergaard.

Allowability of Claim 19

Regarding Claim 19, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, Vestergaard fails to disclose or suggest a

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... method in a mobile wireless communications device, the method comprising:
identifying a network in which the wireless communications device is operating;
determining network record information based on the network identified;
determining whether to search for a home network when roaming based on search information associated with the network record information identified.

Vestergaard discloses a mobile communication device having a switch enabling the user to manually select one of two or more networks (PLMNs) in which the device will operate. Vestergaard, [paras. 0007, 0026, 0031, 0033]. The object of Vestergaard is to prevent roaming in another network when the home PLMN is available. Vestergaard, [para. 0031]. To address this problem, Vestergaard searches for the home PLMN regardless of the network selected by the user. Vestergaard, [para. 0007]. If the home PLMN is found while another network is selected, Vestergaard either notifies the user that the home PLMN is available or automatically changes networks. Vestergaard, [para. 0008].

There is no need for Vestergaard to determine network record information based on the network identified to determine whether to search for a home network when roaming based on search information associated with the network record information identified. As noted, Vestergaard searches for the home PLMN regardless of the network for which the communication device is configured to operate. Claim 19 and the claims that depend therefrom are thus patentably distinguished over Vestergaard.